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Obama Administration Announces Additional \$11,281,300 for Local Energy Efficiency Improvements in Maine

Block Grants to Support Jobs, Cut Energy Bills, and Increase Energy Independence

WASHINGTON – Vice President Joe Biden and Energy Secretary Steven Chu today announced plans to invest \$3.2 billion in energy efficiency and conservation projects in U.S. cities, counties, states, territories, and Native American tribes. This includes \$11,281,300 for state, county and city efforts in Maine. A detailed breakdown is below.

Today's announcement builds on an investment of \$69,240,015 in Maine weatherization and energy funding announced by the Administration on March 12th and detailed at energy.gov/recovery.

"These investments will save taxpayer dollars and create jobs in communities around the country," said Vice President Biden. "Local leaders will have the flexibility in how they put these resources to work – but we will hold them accountable for making the investments quickly and wisely to spur the local economy and cut energy use."

The Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant program, funded by President Obama's American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, will provide formula grants for projects that reduce total energy use and fossil fuel emissions, and improve energy efficiency.

The funding will support energy audits and energy efficiency retrofits in residential and commercial buildings, the development and implementation of advanced building codes and inspections, and the creation of financial incentive programs for energy efficiency improvements. Other activities eligible for use of grant funds include transportation programs that conserve energy, projects to reduce and capture methane and other greenhouse gas emissions from landfills, renewable energy installations on government buildings, energy efficient traffic signals and street lights, deployment of Combined Heat and Power and district heating and cooling systems, and others.

To ensure accountability, the Department of Energy will provide guidance to and require grant recipients to report on the number of jobs created or retained, energy saved, renewable energy capacity installed, greenhouse gas emissions reduced, and funds leveraged. Funding is based on a formula that accounts for population and energy use.

“The Block Grants are a major investment in energy solutions that will strengthen America’s economy and create jobs at the local level,” said Secretary Chu. “The funding will be used for the cheapest, cleanest and most reliable energy technologies we have – energy efficiency and conservation – which can be deployed immediately. The grants also empower local communities to make strategic investments to meet the nation’s long term clean energy and climate goals.”

Funding for state, city, and county governments in the state includes:

ME	Maine Total Sum City, County, and SEO Allocations	All	\$ 11,281,300
ME	Maine	State Energy Office	\$ 9,593,500
ME	Auburn	City	\$ 105,200
ME	Augusta	City	\$ 99,400
ME	Bangor	City	\$ 161,700
ME	Biddeford	City	\$ 92,500
ME	Brunswick	City	\$ 100,900
ME	Lewiston	City	\$ 157,700
ME	Portland	City	\$ 684,700
ME	Sanford	City	\$ 87,300
ME	Scarborough	City	\$ 84,300
ME	South Portland	City	\$ 114,100

In addition, today’s announcement includes funding for the following Tribal governments in the state:

ME	Aroostook Band of Micmac Indians of Maine	\$ 54,200
ME	Houlton Band of Maliseet Indians of Maine	\$ 38,500
ME	Passamaquoddy Tribe of Maine	\$ 77,200
ME	Penobscot Tribe of Maine	\$ 84,700

(NOTE: If a Tribal government spans more than one state, the number above reflects the allocation for the Tribal government as a whole.)

More information on the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant Program is available on http://apps1.eere.energy.gov/wip/block_grants.cfm.

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